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# Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 HA-05 EB-08 AF-10 ( ISO ) W
----------073839 092329Z /73
R 081206Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8718
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1214

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, IC
SUBJECT: 33RD UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: CONSULTATIONS WITH ICELAND

REF: (A) STATE 225331; (B) STATE 190598

1. EMBOFF ACCOMPANIED USUN MIN-COUNS PETREE ON CALL AT MFA SEPTEMBER 7. OCCASION WAS USED TO REVIEW US POSITIONS ON POINTS REF A. ICELANDIC OFFICIALS PREFACED MEETING BY NOTING THAT NEW GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN OFFICE LESS THAN ONE WEEK AND IT WOULD THEREFORE BE DIFFICULT TO BE SPECIFIC ABOUT GOI POSITION ON NUMBER OF ITEMS. OFFICIALS NOTED HOWEVER, THAT BASIC LINES OF GOI FOREIGN POLICY UNLIKELY TO CHANGE. FOLLOWING WERE ICELANDIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS RAISED IN REFTELS. PETREE MET FIRST WITH MFA PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY HENRIK BJORNSSON, WHO DISCUSSED CURRENT MFA SITUATION IN NEW GOVERNMENT, AND THEN CONTINUED WITH DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON GA ISSUES WITH DEPUTY PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY HORDUR HELGASON AND COUNSELOR OLAFUR EGILSSON OF INTERNATIONAL DIVISION.

2. PEACEKEEPING - PETREE RAISED US INTEREST IN STRENGHTENING UN CAPACITY IN PEACEKEEPING AREA, REFERRING TO OUR CONCRETE PROPOSALS, OUR EAGERNESS TO WORK WITH THE NORDICS ON THIS, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND CURRENT CONSIDERATION OF THE EC-9 DRAFT DECLARATION. MFA OFFICIALS INDICATED FULL AWARENESS OF OUR CONSULTATIONS AND PROPOSALS, BASED ON THE EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS OF THIS TOPIC AT THE RECENT NORDIC MEETINGS IN STOCKHOLM. THEY EXPRESSED ICELAND'S GENERAL SUPPORT FOR REFORM EFFORTS, BUT NOTED ICELAND'S EXTREMELY LIMITED CAPABILITY FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES. THEY NOTED THAT APPARENT

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REQUIREMENTS FOR CIVILIAN PERSONNEL (THEY MENTIONED MEDICAL
NEEDS SPECIFICALLY) EMERGING IN THE NAMIBIA EXERCISE WERE
OF SOME INTEREST TO ICELAND, THOUGH THEY HAD NOT AS YET HAD
AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE THIS POSSIBILITY CONCRETELY.

3. SOUTH AFRICA - OFFICIALS RECALLED THAT AT MOST RECENT
MEETING OF NORDIC MINISTERS IT WAS DECIDED TO IMPOSE VISA
REQUIREMENT ON SOUTH AFRICANS AS SIGN OF DISAPPROVAL OF RSA
APARTHEID POLICY. IN TERMS OF OTHER MEASURES SUCH AS LIMITING
SPORTS COMPETITION AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN TEAMS OR INVESTMENT
IN SOUTH AFRICA, THERE WAS LITTLE THAT COULD BE DONE BECAUSE
OF ICELANDIC CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES FOR FREEDOM OF
INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS. HOWEVER, IT WAS INTENTION OF
ICELANDIC FOREIGN MINISTER TO WRITE TO ICELANDIC SPORTS
FEDERATION AND EXPRESS GOI OPPOSITION TO RSA POLICIES.
IN GENERAL, THE ICELANDIC OFFICIALS OBSERVED THAT NORDICS WERE
FINDING INCREASING DIFFICULTY IN AGREEIN ON FURTHER CONCRETE
ANTI-APARTHEID STEPS BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION FROM POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC CONSTITUENCIES AT HOME.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS - PETREE DISCUSSED USG INTEREST IN
STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS MACHINERY IN UN AND OTHER INTER-
NATIONAL FORA. MFA OFFICIAL STATED THAT GOI WOULD "PROBABLY
NOT FIND ANY DIFFICULTY SUPPORTING USG POSITION" IN THIS AREA.

5. RACISM - MFA DEPUTY PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY HELGASON
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REVIEWED GOI OPPOSITION TO RADICAL CONFRONTATION AT GENEVA
WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.
HE NOTED THAT GOI THOUGHT THAT CONFERENCE WAS WORTH A TRY
BUT WHEN RADICALS SUCCEEDED IN SETTING ASIDE THE ORIGINAL
SECRETARIAT DRAFT, WHICH ICELAND COULD HAVE LIVED WITH,
THEY CONCLUDED THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN
CHANGED AND JOINED NORWEGIAN AND EC-9 DELEGATIONS IN WALKING
OUT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, THEY EXPRESSED PESSIMISM THAT
THE ZIONISM/RACISM LINK CAN BE BROKEN EXCEPT WITH THE PASSAGE OF
TIME. THEY UNDERSTAND AND FUNDAMENTALLY AGREE WITH THE US POSITION.

6. ECONOMIC ISSUES - WHILE INTERESTED IN HEARING OF USG
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, GOI LACKED MANPOWER TO GIVE CAREFUL
ATTENTION TO THESE MATTERS.

7. COMMENT: MFA OFFICIALS APPEARED TO APPRECIATE OUR EFFORT
TO CONSULT WITH THEM ON UN ISSUES. THEY MADE THE POINT
SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE RECENT CHANGE IN GOVERNMENTS MADE IT
MORE THAN USUALLY DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE COMMENTS IN DEPTH ON
THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. MORE-THAN ANY POLITICAL INHIBITIONS
THAT MIGHT THEORETICALLY CONCERN A NEW GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER,
THE OFFICIALS WE MET WITH EMPHASIZED THE NEAR-CRIPPLING

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LIMITATIONS OF AN MFA AND FOREIGN SERVICE STAFFED BY 39
PEOPLE WORLDWIDE. THE MFA PROVIDED AN INTERESTING
SIDE NOTE WHEN THEY TOLD US OUR PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS
WERE BEING SANDWICHED BETWEEN SESSIONS ON MANY OF THE
SAME SUBJECTS WITH A SOVIET VISITOR IN TOWN FOR THE
SAME PURPOSE.

8. MESSAGE CLEARED WITH PETREE.
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# Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** PLANNING MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
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**Draft Date:** 08 sep 1978
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
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**Subject:** 33RD UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: CONSULTATIONS WITH ICELAND
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**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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